

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. The claims are unchanged notwithstanding the obviousness-type double patenting rejections over the allegedly conflicting claims of commonly owned copending application Serial No. 10/530,020 and/or commonly owned prior patent No. 7,242,757 as manifested in the Office Action. The double patenting rejections are obviated through the submission of the two attached Terminal Disclaimers. It should be noted that the filing of the attached Terminal Disclaimers is not an admission of the propriety of the Examiner's double patenting rejections.¹

Allowance of claims 1-18 in the absence of art rejections is believed appropriate and therefore respectfully requested.

Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

¹ MPEP, section 804.02.II.

Serial No. 10/523,787

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP

/Yoon S Ham/
Yoon S. Ham
Registration No. 45,307

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
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